

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15768 261405Z

ACTION NEA-11

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SUBJECT: REFERENDUM DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY. PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE VOTES TO EXPEL WAFDIST AND LEFTIST. AKHBAR PREDICTS ASU SECGEN MAY DISALLOW WAFD DISSOLUTION, WHILE RIGHTIST AL AHRAR EMULATES SHARP ANTI-GOVERNMENT CRITICISM OF DEFUNCT AL AHALI. EVEN ANIS MANSOUR TAKES CENTER PARTY TO TASK.
END SUMMARY.

1. EXPULSIONS. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE JUNE 24 RECOMMENDED EXPULSION FROM PARLIAMENT OF WAFDIST ABDEL FATAH HASSAN AND LEFTIST ABUL EZZ EL HARIRI. VOTES WERE 18-8 AND 19-3 RESPECTIVELY. FULL PARLIAMENT WILL CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION JULY 26 BUT OUTCOME IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION. HASSAN CONDEMNED FOR PRE-REVOLUTIONARY WAFD ACTIVITY (DESPITE HIS EFFORT CHALLENGE RECENT LEGISLATION IN COURT), WHILE EL HARIRI CITED FOR HIS ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN ALEXANDRIA. EXPULSIONS WOULD NECESSITATE NEW BY-ELECTIONS.

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2. WAFD. MOUSSA SABRI COLUMN ON JUNE 25 AGAIN SUGGESTED ASU SECGEN MOUSTAFA KHALIL MAY RULE WAFD DISSOLUTION ILLEGAL. SABRI CLAIMS NUMBER OF WAFDIST HAVE COMPLAINED THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED ON DECISION DISSOLVE PARTY AND VOTE ON ISSUE CONDUCTED IN HIGHLY IRREGULAR MANNER. (TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, CAIRO COURT SAME DAY DISMISSED WAFD LEADER SARAGEDDIN'S SLANDER SUIT AGAINST SABRI.)

3. RIGHT WING CRITICISM. OFFICIAL RIGHT PARTY WEEKLY AL AHRAR ATTEMPTING FILL CRITICAL VOID CREATED BY DISAPPEARANCE OF AL AHALI. JUNE 26 EDITION SEVERELY ATTACKED PM SALEM AND CABINET FOR INABILITY SOLVE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. SALEM, CLAIMED PAPER, HAS ONLY "DISCOVERED" DURING RECENT TOURS SEVERE DEFICIENCIES IN PUBLIC UTILITIES PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO ALL EGYPTIANS: CONTINUOUS CUT-OFFS OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY; BREAKDOWNS IN TELEPHONE SERVICE EVERYWHERE; AND SEVERE TRAFFIC SNARLS. AHRAR CHARGED THAT PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES HAVE INCREASED 50-80 PERCENT IN PAST YEAR DESPITE SALEM'S PROMISES, WHILE EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS SERIOUSLY DEGENERATED. PARTY LEADER MOUSTAFA KAMEL WONDERS RHETORICALLY IN SAME ARTICLE WHAT MEASURES PM CAN TAKE TO CURB INFLATIONARY SPIRAL, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT FLAGRANT GOE RELIANCE ON PLANNED AND MASSIVE DEFICIT SPENDING IS ROOT CAUSE OF CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

4. CRITICISM BY MANSOUR. JUNE 25 OCTOBER MAGAZINE COLUMN BY ANIS MANSOUR, TAKES SALEM'S CENTER PARTY TO TASK FOR INEFFECTUAL POLICIES. CENTER PARTY HAS LARGEST PARLIAMENTARY BLOC, CONCEDES MANSOUR, BUT THIS NOT END IN ITSELF, BUT CHALLENGE TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR EGYPT'S PROBLEMS. TO DATE, CENTER PARTY SUCCESS AT PROBLEM SOLVING LESS THAN RESOUNDING.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 15768 261405Z

5. COMMENT. BOTH POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL COMMENTATORS CURRENTLY DISPLAYING LACK OF SENSE OF DIRECTION. SADAT, IN RECENT SPEECHES AND VIA REFERENDUM, HAS MADE CLEAR WHAT HE THINKS IS WRONG, BUT LOCAL POLITICOS SEEM TO BE HAVING HARD TIME FATHOMING WHAT PRESIDENT ACTUALLY WANTS. INDICATION OF CURRENT MOOD IS FACT THAT, WHILE SALEM LATE IN GAME ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT FOR CENTER PARTY, SOME POLITICAL COMMENTATORS PREDICT THAT REVIVED NATIONALIST PARTY MAY EVENTUALLY REPLACE SALEM'S CENTER. EILTS

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